➤ Extension of social security benefits like provident funds, pension etc. to all AWWs/AWHs.

➤ Enhancement of honorarium to Rs. 3,000/- for AWWs and Rs. 2,000/- to AWHs.

(c) With a view to consider the demands of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) Government constituted a Review Committee for examining current levels of honorarium and related issues of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. The Report of the Review Committee is under the consideration of the Government.

Engineering colleges in the country

*34. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of engineering colleges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these colleges are facing acute shortage of qualified professors and lecturers;

(c) if so, the measures being taken to meet the shortage;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have imposed a ban on recruitment of teachers; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) The total number of degree level Engineering institutions approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is 1617. These colleges are facing acute shortage of qualified professors and lecturers.

AICTE had constituted a high-powered Committee on "Faculty Development in Technical Institutions" under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Rama Rao. The Committee in its Report has recommended several measures for faculty development. The Report has been accepted in principle by the Executive Committee of the AICTE. Subject to the availability of funds during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, these recommendations will be implemented. Considering the shortage of well-qualified technical faculty in the country, the age of superannuation of teachers in the Centrally funded Institutions of higher and technical education has been enhanced from 62 years to 65 years. The Central Government has not imposed any ban on the recruitment of teachers.

Poly Metalic Nodule Programme

*35. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in the poly Metallic Nodule programme in terms of mining of nodules during the last five years;

(b) whether Government propose to expand the metallurgical extraction facilities and their capacity; and